



On the verge of the Youth Social Disaster

From Karina Pazhyna
GE Ambassador in Ukraine

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On 10 April at the student parliament of the State Flight Academy of Ukraine (SFAU) was held the local debates on the theme "On the Verge of the Youth and Social Disaster". The debate was arranged by the GE Ambassador with the help of the deputies of the student parliament SFAU. The number of participants was 14 people – students who were quite interested in the social themes, and the ways of the improvement the general social situation in Ukraine.

The event was organized not in the regular form of debates. Firstly, the presentation of Generation Europe was made (according to the information materials at the web-site) because some participants were new members of the meeting. After that, students were divided into 3 active groups which would have to work together on the one of the selected by GEA themes: prostitution in Ukraine, family violence, and selling the unhealthy food products. The students got the special card with the last statistics information concerning each burning question in Ukraine. Their task was to analyze the data, to make up their own opinion concerning each problem, and to find the reasons of its appearing and the possible ways out.

The themes cards include the following information:

1. Prostitution
 - 250 thousands women are involved in the sex-business in Ukraine;
 - The profit from sex-service is \$5,5 ml a month in Kyiv;
 - 73% of prostitutes have chosen such work "in order not to work for some pennies in a small company"; 61% want to earn more money and to leave this business; 27% have been forced to work as the prostitutes;
 - 50,2% of people consider not to be applicable of legalizing prostitution in Ukraine;
 - 66% of women use condoms;
 - The administrative fines for prostitutes are 15 grn (nearly 1.5 euro).

2. Family violence
 - During the 6 months there were 83 thousand statements to the police about violence in the family; 90% of them were given by women;
 - 68% of women (18 ml women) suffer from violence in the family;
 - 40-60 % of people are the witnesses of the family violence.

3. Selling the unhealthy food products

- Most of food products don't meet the requirements of the State Standards of Ukraine, especially – alcohol products;
- Some of food products contain banned elements;
- Most sellers at the markets don't have the necessary documentation for selling the food, some of them – buy them;
- Most of food producers don't follow food restrictions and laws.

Each group of students worked at their theme for 15 minutes, and after their own discussion, they presented their opinions to the rest of students. After each presentation, the other students started asking them questions, and as the result, the debates were hold in more successful way because of the official statics which gave the students the full understanding of the social situations in Ukraine.

In order to reduce the spreading of such social disasters as prostitution, family violence, the group of students came into the following ways of solving the problems, at least among young people:

1. To make much more social ads on TV, in the internet;
2. To make specialize presentations about the possible results of such social disasters among youth – pupils and students;
3. To make information campaigns with the help of the NGO and some charity organizations;
4. To make up polls in order to find out more about the youth attitude to the mentioned above themes;
5. To arrange concerts and some other entertainment events to show the harmful affect of such social phenomenon.

Before these debates, most of the involved students didn't have any idea about the real situation in Ukraine concerning prostitution, family violence and selling of the unhealthy food. The students were shocked by the numbers which they saw at their cards, and this fact made them more free to discuss these questions because of their real importance.

While discussing the prostitution in Ukraine, some students were extremely against of legalization it in Ukraine. Though, the others considered it to be quite a necessary step in the modern social policy, taking into consideration the experience of the other European countries, such as Holland and Germany.

Most students had to confess that they even didn't think about such problems as family violence and unhealthy food products. In the first case, they didn't face that problem, and even couldn't imagine that it exist in such a way. And in the second case, they always gave their preference to tasty food instead of healthy one.

All in all, the first part of the debates "On the Verge of the Youth and Social Disaster" was hold in quite a successful way. The students got some new information concerning the main social problems of the Ukrainian society, and tried to make up some steps for its reducing.

The second part of the debates "On the Verge on the Youth and Social Disaster" will be hold at the end of April. The next local debates will be focused on the following social problems as smoking, drinking alcohol and HIV in Ukraine. But the next time, the tasks for the students will be more difficult. They will have not only to discuss the selected themes and give the possible ways out, but also to analyze the posters made by the GEA about the representation of the problems, mentioned above, by the Ukrainian Mass Media.